
Appendix E: List of terms

AC

Alternating current

AC equipment ground (ACEG)

An insulated conductor, used to protect personnel from injury, that does not normally carry current. The ACEG is permanently bonded to the service panel ground and to metal parts of electrical equipment that do not normally carry current.

AWG

American wire gauge

Backplane

A printed circuit board that extends across the width of the card cage and connects to the circuit card connectors

Battery backup

System power furnished by stand-by batteries that are charged by a charger. If commercial power fails, the batteries will maintain service for a limited period of time, determined by the size of the batteries and the traffic on the system. (Also called battery reserves.)

Battery return (BR, BATRTN, or RTN)

A conductor that carries –48 V dc return current. Although battery return conductors are not grounding conductors, they must be referenced to ground by a single connection.

BTU

Bus terminating unit

Bus

A copper bar, plate, or conductor

Card cage

A frame for holding circuit cards in a module; also called a card chassis

CE/PE

Common equipment/peripheral equipment

CEC

Canadian Electrical Code

Central office (CO)

The site where a telephone company terminates customer lines and houses the switching equipment that interconnects those lines

Central processing unit (CPU)

The main portion of a computer that contains the primary storage, arithmetic and logic units, and the control unit (may also mean a mainframe computer)

Circuit cards

Circuit cards carry the electronics for particular functions (such as memory and switching functions). Most cards are housed in the card cage in a module and connect to the backplane. Some cards must be installed in dedicated slots in a card cage. (Also called circuit packs or boards.)

CMA

Changeover and memory arbitrator

CMDU

Core multi-drive unit

CNI

Core to network interface

Common equipment (CE)

A hardware subsystem that houses one or more central processing units (CPUs), memory cards, disk drive units, and service cards

CSA

Canadian Standards Association

DC

Direct current

DCE

Data communications equipment

DTE

Data terminal equipment

DTR

Digitone receiver

EEPE

Enhanced existing peripheral equipment

FDI

Floppy disk interface

FDU

Floppy disk unit

FG (or FGND)

Frame ground (safety ground)

Ground

A metallic connection, whether intentional or accidental, between an electric circuit or equipment and the earth, or some conducting body that serves in place of the earth. Typically, a connection to earth obtained by a grounding electrode.

Hz

Hertz (cycles per second)

IG

Isolated ground

Input/output (I/O)

Exchange between a machine and end user equipment

IOP

Input/output processor

IPB

Inter-processor bus

IPE

Intelligent peripheral equipment

LED

Light emitting diode

Line

A communications channel or circuit; an electrical path

Logic return (LR or LRTN)

Sometimes referred to as logic ground, logic return is the voltage reference and current return path that is eventually connected to the single point ground for analog and digital circuits.

Logic return equalizer (LRE)

The point at which all logic return wires are consolidated before connecting to the single point ground. Physically, the LRE function can be provided by a separate grounding bus bar, by the common battery return bus in a DC power distribution panel, or by the AC equipment ground in an isolated ground service panel.

Loop

A bidirectional path between network equipment and peripheral equipment

MDF

Main distribution frame (cross-connect terminal)

MDU

Multi-disk unit

MFA150

150-amp modular, front access DC power system, rack style

Module power supplies

Individual power units that generate the different DC voltages required by the cards installed in each module

MPDU

Module power distribution unit

MPP600

600-amp modular DC power plant, cabinet style

MSI

Mass storage interface

NEC

National Electrical Code (U.S.A.)

Network equipment

A hardware subsystem that provides digital multiplexed switching for voice, data, and signaling paths

NT6D82

900-amp DC power system, rack style

Pedestal

The bottom element in a column. Each pedestal houses a blower or fan unit, an air filter, the PDU (which contains the column circuit breakers), and the system monitor. (The pedestal in system option 21A houses only the PDU.)

Peripheral equipment (PE)

A hardware subsystem that provides analog and digital line and trunk interfaces and houses a combination of line, trunk, and Digitone receiver circuit cards

PFTU

Power fail transfer unit

Power distribution unit (PDU)

Input power for Meridian 1 is brought into the pedestal to the PDU. The PDU distributes input power to the column.

QBL12

75-amp external DC power distribution unit

QBL15

150-amp external DC power distribution unit

QCA13

50–200-amp rectifier/distribution unit cabinet

RPE

Remote peripheral equipment

SDI

Serial data interface

Single point ground (SPG)

A single connection used to reference electronic equipment to ground; no DC current flows through the connection unless a fault condition exists.

System monitor

A microprocessor-based circuit card that controls and monitors the status of cooling equipment and power-related hardware and functions

System SPG

The point where frame ground, logic return, AC equipment ground, and battery return are connected to ground

TDS

Tone and digit switch

TN

Terminal number

Top cap

The top cap is mounted on the top module of each column. It provides airflow exits, EMI/RFI shielding, I/O cable entry and exit, and overhead cable rack mounting. The top cap covers thermal sensor assemblies for the column.

Trunk

A single circuit between two points, both of which are switching centers or individual distribution points

Universal equipment module (UEM)

A modular, self-contained hardware cabinet that houses a card cage, power supply, backplane, circuit cards, and other basic equipment. When equipped, the UEM becomes a specific type of module, such as a CPU Module or Network Module.

UPS

Uninterruptible power supply

V ac

Voltage alternating current

V dc

Voltage direct current